

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-10 L-03 OMB-01
SS-15 MCE-00 ACDA-12 /069 W
-----028961 230612Z /14

R 230320Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7939
INFO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHDC
CHNAV MAT WASHDC
COMNAV SUPS COM WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/7//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 TEHRAN 3765

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI MASS IR
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF MARK 48 TORPEDO AND
ENCAPSULATED HARPOON INFO FIR IIN SUBMARINES

REF: STATE 23314 (NOTAL), TEHRAN 0673 (NOTAL)

1. IIN CINC ADM HABIBOLLAHI WROTE THE LETTER CONTAINED IN PARA 2
BELOW TO THE CIEF ADVISOR OF ARMISH/MAAG NAVY SECTION FEB 12.
LETTER REQUESTS INFO CONCERNING SPACE AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR
MARK 48 TORPEDO AND ENCAPSULATED HARPOON SYSTEMS SO THAT IF THOSE
SYSTEMS BECOME RELEASABLE TO IRAN IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RETRO-
FIT THEM INTO THE 6 SUBMARINES GOI IS PURCHASING FROM THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. IT WAS FORWARDED TO CNO (OP-63E) UNDER A
NAVY SECTION FEB 28 MOMORANDUM.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. SUBJ: SUBMARINE WEAPON SYSTEMS
INFORMATION; REQUEST FOR
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1. ON A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THE IIN HAS
FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE US
NAVY ENCAPSULATED HARPOON AND MK-48 TORPEDO WEAPON
SYSTEMS. ON EACH OCCASION WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT
NEITHER SYSTEM WAS CURRENTLY CONSIDERED TO BE RELEASABLE
TO THE IIN.

2. AT THIS TIME, THE IIN IS APPROACHING THE FINAL STAGES OF NEGOTIATION FOR PURCHASE OF SIX SUBMARINES FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (HDW). WE PLAN THAT THESE SUBMARINES WILL REMAIN IN THE IIN FORCE STRUCTURE UNTIL WELL BEYOND THE YEAR 2000. IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT, SOMETIME DURING THE LIFE OF THESE SUBMARINES, THE MK-48 TORPEDO AND/OR ENCAPSULATED HARPOON WILL BECOME RELEASABLE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WISH TO ENSURE THAT PROVISIONS TO RETROFIT BOTH OF THESE SYSTEMS ARE INCLUDED DURING SUBMARINE CONSTRUCTION. OTHERWISE WE FACE THE PROSPECTS OF COSTLY RIPOUTS, INEFFICIENT MODIFICATIONS, AND PERHAPS CONVERSIONS WHICH MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE AT ALL.

3. NEITHER THE IIN OR THE POTENTIAL SHIPBUILDER HAS INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEAPON SYSTEMS IN THE DEGREE NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY. SUCH INFORMATION AS GENERAL AND SPECIAL POWER REQUIREMENTS, SPACE AND WEIGHT TO BE RESERVED FOR FIRE CONTROL QUOTE BLACK BOXES END QUOTE, SPECIAL INPUT AND INTERFACE CONSIDERATIONS, UNKNOWN LAUNCH REQUIREMENTS, ETC. IS NEEDED. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE US NAVY. WE REQUEST THAT IT BE PROVIDED, IN WHATEVER AMOUNT AND FORM IS DEEMED APPROPRIATE, WITH DUE REGARD FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SITUATION. IT CONFIDENTIAL

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IS UNDERSTOOD THAT RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION WILL IN NO WAY IMPLY A COMMITMENT TO RELEASE EITHER WEAPON SYSTEM TO THE IIN.

4. AS A RELATED MATTER, I WISH TO ADDRESS ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE MK-48 TORPEDO ISSUE, THAT OF THE PRODUCTION LINE. IF THE US NAVY FINISHES PRODUCTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THE LINE IS CLOSED DOWN, THEN THE IIN WOULD HAVE TO PAY START-UP COSTS IF THE MK-48 WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AND PURCHASED. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE ADDITIONAL COSTS ARE AVOIDABLE, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE FORCED TO SPECULATE DUE TO LACK OF RATIONALE REGARDING THE CURRENT SITUATION. END QUOTE.

3. GOULD VP OLIVERSON WAS BACK IN IRAN EARLIER THIS MONTH AND WAS IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY, ARMISH/MAAG NAVY SECTION AND IIN. OLIVERSON MET WITH POLMIL COUNS APRIL 4 AND SAID THAT GOULD WAS PURSUING QUESTION OF MARK 48 RELEASABILITY TO IRAN IN WASHINGTON WITH BOTH DEFENSE AND STATE. HE OUTLINED DISCUSSIONS THAT HAD BEEN HELD,

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-----029263 230612Z /14

R 230320Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7940
INFO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
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MAINLY IN MARCH, WITH SECDEF, UNDERSECRETARY BENSON,
AND THE OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL. HE NOTED THAT
GOULD HOPED--AT LEAST EVENTUALLY--TO HAVE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH DECISION PERMITTING MARK 48 RELEASE TO GOI. IN
MEANTIME, GOULD WOULD NOT PURSUE MARK 48 QUA MARK 48
WITH IRAN.

4. GOULD, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN FOLLOWING WITH INTEREST
IRANIAN PLAN TO PURCHASE SIX SUBMARINES FROM FRG, AND
KNEW OF IIN INTEREST IN HAVING SUBMARINES CONSTRUCTED
SO THAT IF MARK 48 SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASABLE SYSTEM
WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH SIX SUBS AND COULD EASILY BE
RETROFITTED INTO THEM. INDEED, HE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING
THIS WITH IIN AND NAVY SECTION. GOULD HAD REVIEWED
THIS WITH MC, INCLUDING INTENTION (IF IIN APPROVED) TO
HAVE ENGINEER TALK WITH FRG SHIPYARD ABOUT SUBMARINE
PLANS SO THAT IF USG APPROVES GOULD COULD DEVELOP
MODIFICATIONS TO THOSE PLANS SO THAT MARK 48 WOULD
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FIT. GOULD HAD BEEN INFORMED BY MC THAT SO LONG AS

COMPANY ON UNCLASSIFIED BASIS KEPT TO ACTIVITY DESCRIBED TO MC GOULD WOULD BE ACTING IN PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER. OLIVERSON SAID GOULD ENGINEER WAS PLANNING TO VISIT FRG SHIPYARD ABOUT APRIL 8. IIN HAD APPROVED THIS AND HAD CLEARED THE WAY WITH THE FRG.

5. OLIVERSON ALSO RAN THROUGH MARK 48 PRODUCTION LINE SITUATION WITH POLMIL COUNS, NOTING HE HAD REVIEWED THIS WITH NAVY SECTION AS WELL. OLIVERSON SAID, INTER ALIS, THAT IF MARK 48 NOT RELEASABLE SO THAT IIN COULD PIC UP AT END OF PRODUCTION RUN FOR USN GOULD WOULD SHIFT MARK 48 PLANT TO SOME OTHER ACTIVITY. WE UNDERSTAND USN AND OTHER BUYS WILL OCCUPY LINE FOR PERHAPS ANOTHER YEAR.

6. FOLLOW UP LETTER FROM IIN CINC TO CHIEF ADVISOR NAVY SECTION ARMISH/MAAG DATED APRIL 5 IS CONTAINED IN PARA SEVEN BELOW. LETTER SPECIFIES THAT THE SIX FRG 209 CLASS SUBMARINES BEING PURCHASED BY IRAN WILL BE BUILT TO IIN SPECIFICATIONS, INCLUDING A TORPEDO LAUNCH AND FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM OF IIN CHOICE. IIN WOULD LIKE SUBS BUILT FOR EASY TRANSITION TO THE MARK 48 IF RELEASABLE.

7. BEGIN QUOTE: SUBJ: MK-48 TORPEDO SYSTEM; INFORMATION CONCERNING

REF: (A) IIN LETTER 1404-16/127, DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1978, SAME SUBJECT

1. REFERENCE (A) REQUESTED INFORMATION CONCERNING MK-48 TORPEDOES AND ANCILLARY LAUNCH AND FIRE CONTROL EQUIPMENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. THE GOI HAS RECENTLY CONCLUDED A CONTRACT WITH HDW, OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FOR THE PURCHASE OF SIX 209 CLASS SUBMARINES. THESE SUBMARINES WILL BE BUILT FROM THE KEEL-UP AND WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH A TORPEDO LAUNCH AND FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM OF IIN CHOICE. ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT, THE IIN MUST SPECIFY THE TORPEDO SYSTEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. BECAUSE OF ITS APPARENT SUPERIORITY OVER OTHER TORPEDO SYSTEMS, THE IIN WOULD PREFER TO ARM ITS HDW SUBMAINES WITH MK-48 TORPEDOES. AT A MINIMUM, THE IIN WOULD LIKE TO EQUIP THESE SUBMARINES WITH A TORPEDO LAUNCH AND FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM COMPATIBLE WITH THE MK-48 SO THAT THE IIN COULD EASILY TRANSITION TO THE MK-48 TORPEDO, SHOULD THIS TORPEDO BECOME QUOTE

RELEASABLE END QUOTE TO IRAN.

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4. BASED ON THE FOREGOING, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE
REPLY TO REFERENCE (A) BE EXPEDITED. YOUR ESTIMATE
AS TO WHEN WE SHOULD EXPECT A REPLY WOULD ALSO BE
APPRECIATED. END QUOTE.

8. OLIVERSON TOLD US DURING THIS EARLY APRIL VISIT THAT
FOLLOWING ENGINEERS VISIT TO FRG SHIPYARD GOULD INTENDED
TO SUBMIT PACKAGE, BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED DATE, TO MC
THAT WOULD, IF APPROVED, PERMIT PLANS FOR SIX IRANIAN
SUBS TO INCORPORATE POSSIBILITY FOR EVENTUAL TRANSITION
TO MARK 48. OLIVERSON INFORMED CHIEF, NAVY SECTION IN
TELCON FROM US APRIL 19 THAT GOULD EXPECTED TO SUBMIT
THIS PACKAGE APRIL 20.

9. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON WHERE THINGS STAND.
AFER DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WE WILL WANT TO REPLY TO
IRANIAN INQUIRIES. COMMENT: IT SEEMS TO US THAT IF US
DECISION CONTINUES TO BE THAT MARK 48 SYSTEM NOT
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RELEASABLE TO IRAN, AND WE UNDERSTAND THIS TO BE THE
CASE, THAT WE SHOULD INDICATE TO GOI THAT SUCH
DECISION IS NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE UNTIL PERHAPS
BEYOND 2000, IF EVER. ASSUMING SITUATION WITH RESPECT
TO ENCAPSULATED HARPOON MIGHT CHANGE IN SOME NEARER
TERM TIMEFRAME WE SHOULD, OF COURSE, MAKE
DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN TWO SYSTEMS IN OUR REPLY TO
IIN LETTERS. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STANDARDS, INFORMATION CONTROL, MISSILES, TORPEDOES, SUBMARINES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN03765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780173-0327
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780426/aaaaavws.tel
Line Count: 289
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbdfc9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 23314, 78 TEHRAN 673
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2876132
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF MARK 48 TORPEDO AND ENCAPSULATED HARPOON INFO FIR IIN SUBMARINES
TAGS: MILI, MASS, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbdfc9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014